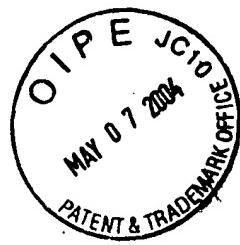


0941.65788



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Itai et al.
Serial No.: 09/943,787
Filed: August 31, 2001
Conf. No.: 1048
For: METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING
MAGNETIC RECORDING
MEDIUM AND THE
MAGNETIC RECORDING
MEDIUM
Art Unit: 1773
Examiner: Resan, Stevan A.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

May 4, 2004

Date
F-CLASS.WCM

Appr. February 20, 1998 Attorney for Applicants

Ans. P. R.

Registration No. 43,874

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. The present application is a continuation of PCT application No. PCT/JP99/03363, filed June 24, 1999. The specification was amended to reflect this priority claim (see the Preliminary Amendment), and priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 was claimed, for example, in the filed Declaration. However, the Notice of Allowability, item 4, acknowledges a claim for foreign priority under "35 U.S.C. § 119(a) – (d) or (f)", and states,

"Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))".

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment that the 35 U.S.C. § 120 claim has been made and perfected. If outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Arik B. Ranson
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May 4, 2004

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